

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SECTO 07015 242208Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 07015

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJ: SECRETRY'S BILATERAL MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER GENSCHER

1. THE BREAKFAST MEETING ON JUNE 24 WAS PRIMARILY
DEVOTED TO MBFR (REPORTED SEPTTEL). HERE IS ACCOUNT OF
THE DISCUSSION BEWTEEN THE SECRETARY AND GENSCHER ON
OTHER MATTERS.

2. WITH RESPECT TO HIS MOSCOW TRIP, GENSCHER MADE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS (IN ADDITION TO WHAT WAS REPORTED IN
BONN 10411):

A. MIDDLE EAST. GROMYKO ACCUSED GENSCHER OF
TRYING TO "FORCE" THE PALESTINIANS TO LIVE UNDER THE
JORDANIAN CROWN. GENSCHER DENIED THIS AND REAFFIRMED
THE FRG'S DESIRE TO HAVE THE ARAB STATES COME UP WITH
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THEIR OWN FORMULA FOR A FUTURE "NATIONAL ORGANIZATION"
FOR THE PALESTINIANS. GENSCHER HAD THE IMPRESSION
THAT THE SOVIETS WERE ATTEMPTING TO PROBE ANY DIFFER-
ENCES BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND GERMAN POSITIONS ON DEAL-
ING WITH THE PALESTINIANS. ONCE GROMYKO WAS UNABLE TO
FIND ANYTHING THAT SEPARATED THE TWO, HE STOPPED
TALKING ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST.

B. SOVIET INTEREST IN PRESIDENT CARTER. GENSCHER WAS STRUCK BY THE MANY QUESTIONS THAT BOTH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO ADDRESSED TO HIM ON THE SUBJECT OF PRESIDENT CARTER. IN VARYING WAYS, THE SOVIET LEADERS ASKED HIM "WHAT KIND OF MAN IS PRESIDENT CARTER?" GENSCHER SAID THAT HE REPLIED, OF COURSE, VERY POSITIVELY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTRIBUTES, BASED ON HIS TWO MEETINGS WITH HIM. THE SOVIETS NOTED HIS REPLIES CAREFULLY AND LEFT GENSCHER WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE WORKING ON A "PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE" OF THE PRESIDENT.

C. TONE OF MEETING. GENSCHER FOUND THE SOVIETS ANXIOUS TO GO BEYOND PREVIOUS EXPRESSIONS OF "FRIENDSHIP" FOR THE FRG. ON SEVERAL PUBLIC OCCASIONS, GROMYKO WAS UNUSUALLY WARM IN HIS PRAISE FOR THE FRG AND HIS CALLS FOR INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE FRG'S OWN RECORDS INDICATE THAT THE SOVIETS NEVER USED THE WORD "FRIENDSHIP" AS THEY DID ON THIS TRIP.

D. BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN. BREZHNEV GAVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE A DECISION ON THE DATES FOR HIS VISIT TO THE FRG UNTIL HE HAD MADE UP HIS MIND ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT TO VISIT THE US IN THE FALL. BREZHNEV LINKED SETTING DATES FOR THE US TRIP TO PROGRESS ON SALT, ALTHOUGH HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SALT CONVERSATIONS IN GENEVA WERE NOW GOING BETTER.

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GROMYKO REFLECTED RESTRAINED OPTIMISM ON SALT.

E. PORGORNY. WHEN ASKED BY GENSCHER RIGHT OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO PODGORNY, GROMYKO REPLIED, "POLITICS IN THE POLITBURO IS LIKE THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE--OCCASIONALLY SOMEONE DISAPPEARS AND IS NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN."

F. ECONOMIC RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO GENSCHER, BREZHNEV WAS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING FRG-USSR ECONOMIC QUESTIONS IN SOME DETAIL. THE SOVIET LEADER PRESSED HARD FOR EXPANDED ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE FRG, CLAIMING THAT ONLY THE ABSENCE OF MORE FAVORABLE CREDIT TERMS PREVENTED MOSCOW FROM GREATLY INCREASING ITS TRADE WITH WEST GERMANY. GENSCHER EXPLAINED THAT THE FRG EXTENDS CREDITS ONLY ON CURRENT MARKET TERMS (ALBEIT WITH GOVERNMENT BACKED GUARANTEES). WHEN BREZHNEV ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR MORE FAVORABLE CREDIT TERMS TO BE APPLIED TO GERMAN

TRADE WITH THE USSR, GENSCHER EXPLAINED WHY THE FRG COULD NOT MAKE SUCH A CONCESSION.

3. GENSCHER ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE FRG'S RECENT DECLARATION ON NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE POLICY STATEMENT REFLECTED NOT ONLY THE VIEWS OF THE FRG BUT THOSE OF THE FEDERAL NUCLEAR COUNCIL, WHICH INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, INDUSTRY, TRADE UNIONS, AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. GENSCHER STRESSED AGAIN THAT PREVIOUS CONTRACTS, NAMELY WITH BRAZIL, WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE CARRIED OUT ON THEIR ORIGINAL TERMS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE SO-CALLED "TAKE-OFF COUNTRIES" SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE TALKS ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY NEEDS. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE FRG'S PUBLIC STATEMENT WAS AN EXTREMELY CONSTRUCTIVE STEP. HE CONVEYED THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL APPRECIATION.

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CIATION FOR THE DECLARATION AND ADDED THAT THE FRG'S "LEADERSHIP" ON THIS ISSUE WOULD NOW DRAW POSITIVE ATTENTION WORLDWIDE. SENATOR RIBICOFF, WHO ALSO ATTENDED THE BREAKFAST MEETING, ADDED THAT THE SENATE HAD REACTED VERY FAVORABLY TO THE FRG STATEMENT.

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